

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-4(canceled).

5(original). A process for the preparation of ready to cook french fried potatoes which process comprises chopping potatoes, fermenting the chopped potatoes with a lactic acid producing microorganism, frying the fermented chopped potatoes, and optionally loading the fried fermented chopped potatoes into a container.

6(original). A process for the preparation of ready to cook french fried potatoes which process comprises chopping potatoes, treating the chopped potatoes with a physiologically acceptable acid, frying the acid treated potatoes, and optionally loading the fried potatoes into a container.

7(original). A container preferably a sealed container, containing oven-ready french fried potatoes produced by frying chopped potatoes pre treated with a lactic acid producing microorganism and/or a physiologically acceptable acid.

8(currently amended). French fries produced by a process as claimed in claim 5 ~~or claim 6 or by way of a use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4.~~

9(new). French fries produced by a process as claimed in claim 6.